

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



June 11, 2003

CSSIN LETTER: 03-07

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: PROCESSING INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

This is to inform you that the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has issued Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) 03-08, entitled Federal Guidance on International Child Support Payments, to discuss the challenges states face with the collection and disbursement of payments for international cases. The DCL specifically addresses the issue that has arisen where some states have returned foreign child support collections because of the difficulty they have experienced with converting foreign payments to United States currency.

DCL 03-08 clarifies that the return of foreign child support payments is an unacceptable action. OCSE is taking steps to provide federal guidance to state child support agencies regarding this issue, and toward that end has released Policy Interpretation Questions (PIQ) 03-04 in conjunction with DCL-03-08. PIQ 03-04, entitled Foreign Currency Child Support Payments, responds to questions submitted by a variety of states regarding the processing of support payments to and from foreign reciprocating countries. It should be noted that these documents address collection and distribution issues in terms of the State Disbursement Unit (SDU). The federal guidance is applicable to local child support agencies (LCSAs), even though California has not yet implemented an SDU.

The internet link to the DCL is <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/dcl-03-08.htm> and the link to the PIQ is <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/piq-03-04.htm>.

In the future, OCSE will be working on additional improvements by exploring the possibilities of working with the Federal Reserve to find methods to utilize electronic

Reason for this Transmittal

- ☐ State Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Change
- ☐ Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by DCSS



funds transfers and electronic data interchange to ease the ability for the United States and foreign countries to quickly transfer funds in their respective currencies.

The LCSAs should note an important detail regarding the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) policy in connection with the OCSE response to question number 5 in PIQ-03-04. The response states that a fee for the costs of converting payments from a foreign currency may be charged to either the obligee or obligor. Since California does not assess fees for its child support program, this fee for conversion of currency may not be assessed by LCSAs.

If you have any questions regarding this CSSIN letter, please send those questions or concerns to policy.branch@dcss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DONNA S. HERSHKOWITZ
Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division